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CHATTANOOGA, TENN., THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 18, 1918.

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Belgians Beat Back Boches

HOSTILE ARTILLERY FIRING HEAVILY ON POSITIONS BETWEEN LOCON-ROBECQ

Details of Fighting On Nieppe-Wyschaete Front
Affirm Severity of Germans' Loss — Three
Successive Strokes at Bailleul
Repulsed.

South of Kemmel Hill, English Restore Line
Pressed Back Earlier When Enemy Infantry
Attacked in Three Waves—Local Efforts
Near Merris Put Down.

(By Associated Press)

London, April 18.—Southeast of Kemmel hill, on the northern battle front, the German forces pressed back the British line slightly, but the situation was restored by a counter-attack, the war office announces. During the night there was no change in the British front.

In the Bailleul sector the Germans made three attacks before noon yesterday, and in each case suffered a complete repulse.

The Germans opened a heavy bombardment of the British positions on the southwestern part of the Lys battle front between Locon and Robecq during the night. The bombardment was still in progress at dawn today.

The statement reads:
"There has been no change on the British front during the night."
"The hostile artillery has shown great activity on the southern portion of the Lys battle front from Givency to east of Robecq. A heavy bombardment of our position between Locon and Robecq was still continuing at dawn."
"Local attacks were repulsed by our troops yesterday evening in the Merris sector."
"More detailed accounts of the fighting of yesterday in the sector of Nieppe-Wyschaete front establish the severity of the enemy's loss. South of Kemmel hill the German infantry attacked in three waves and at one point pressed back our line slightly. In this locality the situation was restored by a counter attack and shortly after midday the attack had been repulsed at all points. In the Bailleul sector the enemy attacked three times before midday and in each case suffered a complete repulse."
"Our line yesterday evening was reported intact on the whole front."

FRESH UNITS OF ENEMY EMPLOYED

With the British Army in France, April 18, 11 a.m.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Germans brought up fresh divisions for the hard struggle which they made yesterday. Although the British were unable to hold Wyschaete and Merris, which they had retaken by a brilliant counter attack, they beat off the enemy elsewhere. The British maintained their line throughout the night.

A renewed heavy bombardment of the British front between Labasse canal at Givency and the Nieppe front suggests the Germans contemplate another heavy drive in this region in the hope of taking Bethune and creating a new salient.

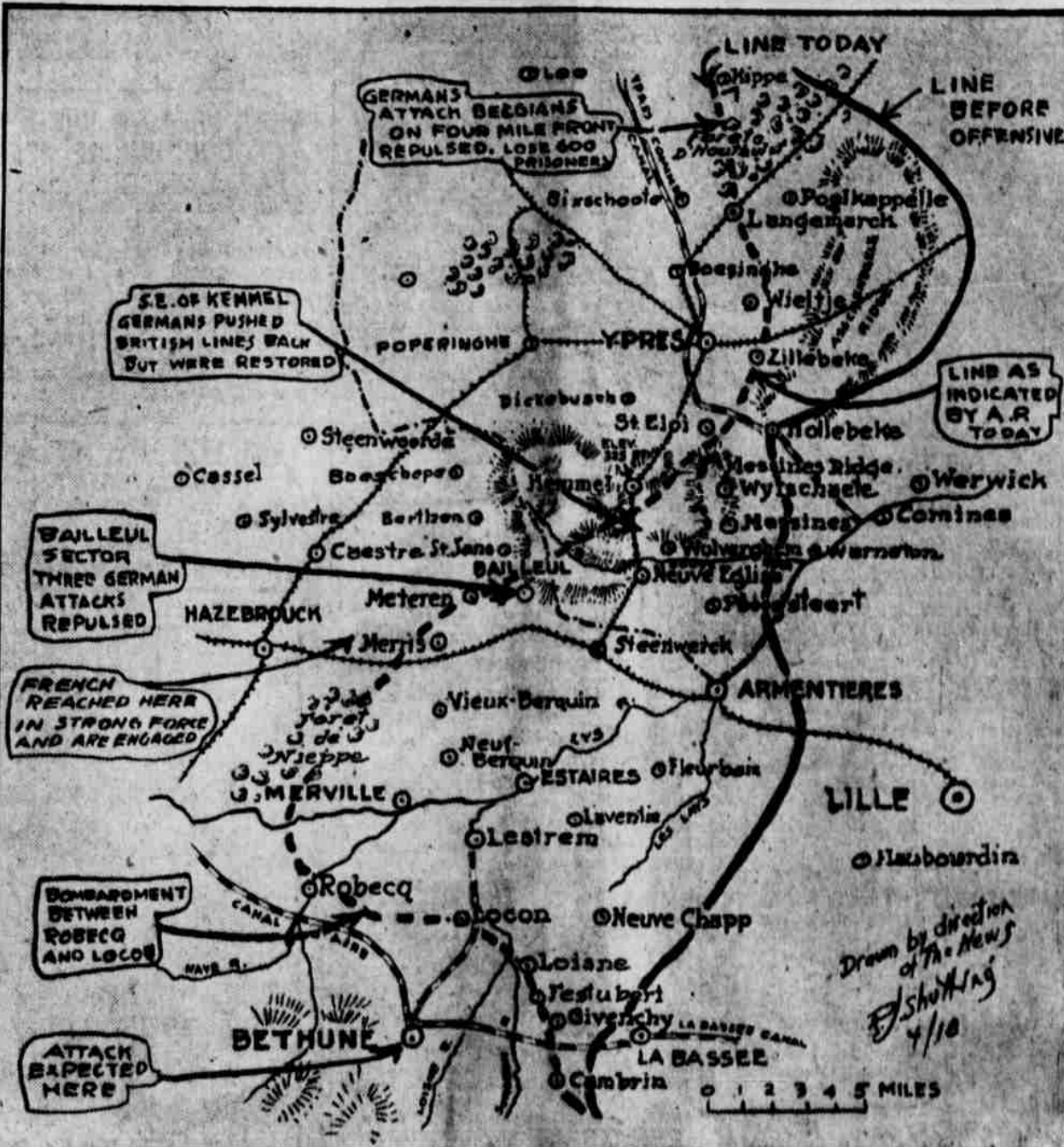
All the areas back of this section of the front were sprinkled with gas shells throughout last night. At 6 o'clock this morning the bombardment was nearly of drum fire intensity between Locon and Robecq, where the enemy has tried repeatedly to advance his line to the canal.

CANADIAN GUNS ACTIVE IN ALL-NIGHT DUEL

Canadian Army Headquarters, April 18.—(By Canadian Press Limited.)—All night long Canadian guns, both heavy and light, have been active against the enemy positions. The bombardment was particularly heavy in the sector of the Lys battle front, where the enemy has been active recently. The Canadian front has been constant during the night. There have been constant duels between our own and the enemy batteries. A considerable amount of gas has been used.

Early this morning we carried out a small projector gas bombardment against the enemy positions to which the Huns replied with gas shells but neither operation approached the magnitude of our heavy gas shell bombardment on April 8, in which over 3,000 shells were fired on hostile artillery positions. That gas bombardment was as successful as it was extensive, twenty-two of thirty-two batteries engaged having been in action ever since.

TODAY'S BATTLE IN YPRES SECTOR



ANGLO-FRENCH DEFENSE PROOF AGAINST WAVES OF ATTACKING GERMANS

Reuters' Correspondent at Headquarters Declares Record Balances Heavily in Allies' Favor — Domination of Ridge From Kemmel to Wyschaete Object.

(Associated Press.)

Ottawa, Ontario, April 18.—For the British infantry co-operating with the French in the northern battle area in France Wednesday was a "strenuous day," a Reuters' dispatch received here today from British headquarters in France says.

"The day was satisfactory, the record balancing heavily in our favor," the dispatch adds. "The German waves dashed against our lines in half a dozen places, but only at Beaver hill did they force us to yield ground, which was counter attacked and regained."

"The heaviest onslaughts occurred southeast of Kemmel hill and west of Merris and there were two attempts northwest of Wulverghem."

"The enemy's grand objective is undoubtedly domination of the ridge system from Kemmel hill to Wyschaete-Kippe."

While the Germans have not made any definite gains, their losses have been appalling.

Anticipated Enemy Move.
Our gunners, anticipating the enemy's occupation of the evacuated Passchendaele salient, prepared to give them a warm reception. When the German infantry advanced the great cemetery in the cockpit of Europe gathered another ghastly toll.

The German attack against the Belgian positions nearer the coast is especially noteworthy. In this stage of the campaign the enemy employed four divisions—one of marine infantry, one Bavarian and two Prussian. An intense night-long bombardment was probably counted upon to forestall all resistance, but the Germans speedily found that they were mistaken, for the Belgians put up a fight, finally driving away the Germans in confusion and taking more than 600 prisoners. This brilliant victory was on a stretch of six kilometers between Langemark and Kippe.

AMERICAN ENGINEERS OFFICIALLY COMMENDED

With the American Army in France, April 17.—(By the Associated Press.)—Reports from British commanders which have just been received at American army headquarters give the first definite information that American engineering troops in large numbers were among the forces hastily assembled from all branches of the service by Maj. Gen. Carey for his important task of filling the gap in the line made by the Germans at the opening of their offensive last month. The American engineers were at work constructing and operating field railways and building bridges.

Three companies of an engineering regiment were caught in the early bombardment and ordered to fall back. To one of the American companies which had been consolidated with the British royal engineers was delegated the task of guaranteeing the destruction of an engineers' dump which it had been decided to abandon. This detachment destroyed all the material made a rapid retreat, caught up with the larger group and immediately resumed work laying out trenches. These operations lasted from March 22 to 27. As the German attack became more intense the engineers were joined by cooks, orderlies and railway men as a part of Carey's forces. The commanding officer of an American regiment took charge of an infantry sub-sector and directed the operation of his troops for one week until the emergency passed at that point.

To this officer Gen. Rawlinson, commanding the British army engaged in that sector, sent the following letter: "The army commander wishes to record officially his appreciation of the excellent work your regiment has done in assisting the British army to resist the enemy's powerful offensive during the last few days. I fully realize that it has been largely due to your assistance that the enemy has been checked and I rely on you to assist us still further during the few days which are still to come before I shall be able to relieve you in the line."

"I consider your work in the line to be greatly enhanced by the fact that for six weeks previous to taking your place in the front line your men had been working at such high pressure, erecting heavy bridges on the Somme. My best congratulations and warm thanks to all."
When the British general, H. L. Mullens, commanding a cavalry division, received from his superior congratulations and thanks for the work of his command in beating off the enemy he forwarded the following letter to the commander of one of the American engineering units:

"As a United States engineering battalion was fighting with the First cavalry division in the line on March 20, the army commander's congratulatory message applies to them equally with the units of the First cavalry division. It has been brought to my notice that the men under your command fought most gallantly alongside the British cavalry. I am most grateful to you and the unit under your command for the invaluable assistance you gave us on March 20, 1918. Please convey my thanks and congratulations to all ranks."

The reports of the gallant conduct of the Americans on the British front have caused Gen. Pershing to send the following letter to the engineering commander: "The commander-in-chief has noted with great satisfaction the fine conduct of the officers and men of your regiment during the recent German offensive, as testified by British army commanders."

common today it was announced by Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, that Sir David Henderson, vice-president of the Air council, had resigned, following the resignation of Maj. Gen. Trenchard, the chief of the air staff, on the ground that he would be unable to work with the new air staff chief, Gen. F. H. Sykes.

Oldest Member of House
Of Commons Dead
Belfast, Ireland, April 18.—Samuel Young, the oldest member of the house of commons died here today.

Steamer A. A. Raven
Sunk by Submarine
New York, April 18.—The American steamship A. A. Raven, a vessel of 2,435 tons gross register was sunk by a submarine during the second week of March, according to word received in shipping circles here today. No details of the sinking have been received.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF AIR
COUNCIL RESIGNS
London, April 18.—In the house of

LOST TRENCHES REGAINED BY AID U. S. SOLDIERS

Twice in 24 Hours American
Company Assists Neighboring
French Redeem Posts.

Violent Gunfire Faced
Young Corporal Hero of Sharp
Conflict.

"What Are You?" Note Thrown
Into Sammie's Sector Asked.
Later They Found Out.

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, April 17.—(By the Associated Press.)—Twice in twenty-four hours an American company has assisted French troops in a neighboring sector to regain trenches temporarily taken by the Germans. The company was led by a captain who took his troops over the top in the face of the most violent machine gun and artillery fire. Each time he succeeded in driving out the enemy and inflicting heavy casualties and then strengthening the positions.

A most pathetic story from the American lines is that of a young corporal who was wounded fatally after fighting for four hours. A piece of shrapnel struck him in the head. He had a grenade in his hand. Giving them to his companion, he said, "I guess I'm done. Please write to my mother and tell her how it happened. But here—take these grenades, and for God's sake don't waste them."

The corporal fell in a faint and died in a hospital the next day without regaining consciousness.

At one point on this sector there was a space of only fifteen yards between the opposing trenches. A day before an attack, the Germans threw a

FAIR, SAYS BILLY 'POSSUM

"Now the training camp is over, back to mother-hubbards, girls! Lay aside the painted eyebrows, whoops, my dear, who cares for curls! Slip the ruse can in your hope box, rest, but let us not forget, there are still more words to conquer if you haven't landed yet."
The weather? Fair and cooler to night and Friday

EARTH ROCKS WITH NOISE AND SHOCKS

(International News Service.)
London, April 18.—Never has artillery fire reached such intensity as in the battle of Flanders. The same thing was said of the battle of the Ploeghe plains, but it has been surpassed in the mighty engagement raging along the Franco-Belgian frontier.

Night and day the muffled cannon on both sides kept thundering, and the roar can be heard for a hundred miles. The earth rocks and trembles and the concussion is felt far behind the lines. It is a veritable earthquake of noise and shocks.

PRIVATE.
Robert L. Candage, Orin Nichols, Harry Smith.

Wounded Severely.
James E. O'Toole.

PRIVATE.
Edward Britton, Michael Fankor, Wm. R. Davis, Victor C. Friese, Geo. J. Duto, Yagnas Perednea.

Wounded Slightly.
Nathaniel P. Brooks.

SERGEANTS.
M. H. McKenna, John M. Sorber.

CORPORALS.
Oron S. Rathburn, Alfred P. Gorham.

PRIVATE.
M. W. Bartlett, Bill Jures, J. P. Bateman, Jos. J. Kane, Joseph Bazinski, Arthur L. Lyons, J. A. DeBard, Chas. Newton, W. M. Blackwell, C. E. Newton, J. D. Cooner, C. O. Patterson, Leo Creteau, A. G. Peterson, A. C. Cullen, W. F. Quinn, R. E. Edmunds, C. R. Robinson, J. R. Farmer, E. R. Robinson, J. J. Gannon, Chas. C. Seebach, J. A. P. Gorman, Jos. L. Sheridan, Jos. G. Ranger, Harold R. Sleeper, Gustave Helms, Jerry C. Stewart, Jas. E. Hitchcock, Harry R. Sutton, E. L. Hollis, Elmer H. Tardis, H. L. Jardine, James P. Troy, Ralph Wiranis, Frank M. Vonne.

GERMANS ALARMED AT TRAINS OF WOUNDED Flemish Towns Transformed Into Military Hospitals—Red Cross Overworked.

Washington, April 18.—The great flow of wounded now passing through Flanders is viewed with alarm by the Germans, as related in an official dispatch from Amsterdam today. The towns of Courtrai, Bruges, Ghent and other places have been transformed into military hospitals, the dispatch said, adding that at the front arrangements are inadequate and the Red Cross service is not able to fulfill its task. Many wounded it was said, are dying in Red Cross automobiles and wagons and on sanitary trains.

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION MEET IN IRELAND ENDS IN RIOT

Fifteen Thousand Attend Session Called by Labor Party.
Police Pelted With Stones.

(Associated Press.)
London, April 18.—Rioting attended the breaking up of an anti-conscription meeting in Belfast yesterday, according to a dispatch to the Daily News. Revolvers were used and baton charges were made by the police, who were pelted with paving stones. Virtually every plate glass window in the street was smashed.